Author's response to reviews

Title: Delay of sputum smear conversion and outcomes of smears positive tuberculosis patients: A retrospective cohort study in Bafousam, Cameroon

Authors:

Fabrice N Djouma (nembotfbrice2009@yahoo.fr)
Michel Noubom (noubommichel@yahoo.fr)
Jérôme Ateudjieu (jateudi@yahoo.fr)
Hubert Donfack (donfackhubert@yahoo.fr)

Version: 6 Date: 28 February 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Object: Review of article title «Delay of sputum smear conversion and outcomes of smears positive tuberculosis patients: A retrospective cohort study in Bafousam, Cameroon ».

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal.

We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your reviewer's comments.

Reviewer 1: Kingsley Nnanna Ukwaja

1. Other minor editorial changes may be needed, but this could be done at the proof stage of paper preparation. For example, some of the journal names in the references were written in CAPITAL letters, e.t.c.
   • All journal names were written in lower-case letter
2. Minor changes in Table 3 are needed: the percentages (proportions) did not add-up to 100%
   • The percentages in table 3 were adjusted according to reviewer recommendation

Reviewer 2: Jann-Yuan Wang

1. Are there any interventions that could possibly improve the treatment outcome in those with persistent smear positivity? In other words, the authors may try to look at those who were smear non-conversion but finally had a favourable outcome to see what important determinants of outcome are.
   • As recommended in the manuscript, persistent smear positivity patients should be closely monitored to improve their treatment outcome. It will be interesting to see the determinants of favourable outcomes among patients with persistent smear positivity after initiation phase of treatment. But, in this study, sample size of these patients is small. However it can be done in further studies.